

House Joint Resolution 6 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6
BY JACOBSEN and JENEARY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa limiting years of service for members
3 of the general assembly.
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

5 Sec. 3. **Representatives — term limitation.** The members
6 of the house of representatives shall be chosen every second
7 year, by the qualified electors of their respective districts,
8 and their term of office shall commence on the first day of
9 January next after their election, and continue two years, and
10 until their successors are elected and qualified. A person
11 shall not be elected for a term as representative if the term
12 would result in the person serving more than four consecutive
13 terms in the house of representatives or for two years next
14 after serving four consecutive terms. If a person is elected
15 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was
16 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office
17 or was otherwise removed from office, that portion of a term
18 served shall not be included in the terms of service for
19 purposes of this limitation if the person did not serve for at
20 least one-half of the term. Service prior to January 1, 2025,
21 shall not be counted for the purpose of calculating consecutive
22 terms.

23 2. Section 5 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
24 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

25 Sec. 5. **Senators — qualifications — term limitation.**
26 Senators shall be chosen for the term of four years, at
27 the same time and place as representatives; they shall be
28 twenty-five years of age, and possess the qualifications of
29 representatives as to residence and citizenship. A person
30 shall not be elected for a term as senator if the term would
31 result in the person serving more than two consecutive terms in
32 the senate or for four years next after serving two consecutive
33 terms. If a person is elected to serve a portion of a term to
34 which some other person was elected but that person died in
35 office or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from

1 office, that portion of a term served shall not be included
2 in the terms of service for purposes of this limitation if
3 the person did not serve for at least one-half of the term.
4 Service prior to January 1, 2025, shall not be counted for the
5 purposes of calculating consecutive terms.

6 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing proposed
7 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred
8 to the general assembly to be chosen at the next general
9 election for members of the general assembly, and shall be
10 published as provided by law for three months previous to the
11 date of that election.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
16 Constitution of the State of Iowa limiting years of service for
17 persons elected to the general assembly.

18 The amendment provides that a person shall not be elected
19 for a term as a representative if the term would result in the
20 person serving more than four consecutive terms in the house of
21 representatives or elected for a term as a senator if the term
22 would result in the person serving more than two consecutive
23 terms in the senate. Additionally, a representative shall
24 not be elected for a term as a representative for two years
25 following a fourth consecutive term, and a senator shall not
26 be elected for a term as a senator for four years following a
27 second consecutive term. For the purposes of this limitation,
28 a person shall not be considered to have served a term if that
29 person was elected to serve a portion of a term if that person
30 did not serve at least one-half of the full term.

31 The amendment does not apply to service occurring prior to
32 January 1, 2025.

33 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
34 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the
35 electorate for ratification.